

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0027] as follows:

[0027] Referring to FIG. 6, an exemplary configuration for a multimedia server or sender is shown. Exemplary sender 600 may include a unicast component 620, a converger component 630 and a multicast delivery component 640 which function and provide in a number of manners, such as a content delivery mechanism and as a transition mechanism that enables those initially Unicast-connected clients on their respective Unicast IP networks to access the Multicast content on the network. Such a transition may be enabled via converger component 630 which may calculate the necessary stream modifications necessary to synchronize the unicast stream(s) to the multicast stream(s). Sender 600 may also enable users to join a group on the network by providing information relating to what multicast sessions are in progress or scheduled on the network by receiving and sending data on those groups within a session. In the present invention, it is contemplated the sender 600 may handle a theoretically unlimited amount of users between users that have established initial unicast delivery sessions and those that are eventually merged or converged into multicast delivery sessions, subject to the constraints and limitations of the network(s) involved. In one embodiment of the present invention, unicast delivery component 620, converger component 630 and multicast delivery component may be implemented as software running in conjunction with any number of general or specialized computer processors to implement the steps and methods described herein for delivering and synchronizing content delivery over a network. In one embodiment of the present invention the converger component could reside with the sender 600 or with the receiver 610 or as part of the network provided the ability to communicate with the unicast and multicast delivery components is maintained.